

COUNCIL ON HUMAN SERVICES

MINUTES

October 8, 2014

COUNCIL

Mark Anderson
Phyllis Hansell
Alexa Heffernan
Guy Richardson
Kim Spading
Roberta Yoder
Mark Peltan (absent)

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Representative Joel Fry (absent)
Representative Lisa Heddens (absent)
Senator Amanda Ragan (absent)
Senator Jack Whitver (absent)

STAFF

Sally Titus
Rick Shults
Dr. Bhasker Dave

Amy McCoy
Nancy Freudenberg
Kevin Jimmerson

GUESTS

Mike Anderson, WCF Courier
Angela Stark, Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association

CALL TO ORDER

Mark Anderson, Vice-Chair, called the Council meeting to order at the Independence Mental Health Institute in Independence at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 8th, 2014.

ROLL CALL

All Council members were present with the exception of Peltan. Ex-officio legislative members Representatives Fry and Heddens and Senators Ragan and Whitver were absent.

RULES

Nancy Freudenberg, Bureau of Policy Coordination, presented the following rules.

1. Amendments to Chapters 7, 41, and 93, Benefits and Appeals. Clarifies when benefits can continue pending appeal. Also updates policies to implement a new ineligibility period for accessing FIP benefits with an electronic benefits card at a prohibited location. Updates policies that allow DHS to implement a new limited benefit plan. These amendments also change the requirement in the Promise Jobs record retention policy and replaces references to “general education development,” with “high school equivalency” and “high school equivalency diploma.”

A motion was made by Richardson to approve and seconded by Yoder.
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

2. Amendments to Chapters 74 and 77, Medicaid. Clarifies policies and processes for the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan.

A motion was made by Heffernan to approve and seconded by Spading.
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

3. Amendments to Chapter 78, Medicaid. Adds requirements for prior approval of high technology radiology procedures.

A motion was made by Richardson to approve and seconded by Yoder.
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

4. Amendments to Chapter 79, Medicaid. Extends the Primary Care Physician rate increase.

A motion was made by Hansell to approve and seconded by Spading. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

5. Amendments to Chapter 79, Medicaid. Requires that disproportionate share payments be given only to hospitals (including children’s hospitals) in Iowa.

A motion was made by Heffernan to approve and seconded by Richardson.
MOTON UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

6. Amendments to Chapter 79, Medicaid. Clarifies program integrity rules regarding fraud, waste, and abuse.

A motion was made by Yoder to approve and seconded by Hansell. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

REPORT OF NOTICED ACTION

N-1. Amendments to Chapters 107, 108, and 200, Adoption. These amendments provide technical updates to adoption rules, reports, and requirements.

A motion was made Hansell to accept the Report of Noticed Action and seconded by Richardson. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Purpose and Role of Mental Health Institutions

Rick Shults, Administrator, Division of Mental Health and Disability Services, addressed the Council.

- Iowa has four mental health institutions (Cherokee, Clarinda, Independence and Mt. Pleasant). Each institution provides adult in-patient psychiatric services as well as other specialized services. The four MHIs combined serve 139 individuals (operational capacity) in their inpatient psychiatric programs. These individuals receive treatment designed to treat their serious mental health disorders and to achieve stability so they can return to their home community as quickly as possible. The MHIs develop comprehensive discharge plans and work with community services on the implementation of those plans.
- The vast majority of patients come to the MHIs via involuntary civil commitment
- Cherokee and Independence also provide inpatient psychiatric services to children and adolescents.
- Independence also provides sub-acute treatment services through the Psychiatric Medical Institution for Children (PMIC) program.
- Clarinda also provides gero-psychiatric services.
- Mt. Pleasant also provides residential substance abuse (dual diagnosis) services.
- The Integrated Health Home initiative will be used to assist individuals as they transition back to their communities.

Recent History and Status of Independence Mental Health Institute's Services

Dr. Bhasker Dave, Superintendent, addressed the Council.

- Built in 1873, Independence was the second MHI in Iowa.
- Excluding Polk County, the 5 largest counties in Iowa are in Independence's catchment area, which means there are resources to care for the mentally ill when discharged from the MHI.

- The individuals served by the MHI are very seriously mentally ill and are referred to the MHI when an intense level of care is required.
- The economic recessions of 2000-2001 and 2008-2009 required budget cuts to the institution which reduced the number of beds available, causing the MHI to institute a waiting list for programs.
- Most patients are treated in their local communities.
- 85% of the patients are civilly committed, meaning they pose a danger to themselves or others.
- Most patients have long psychiatric treatment histories and are generally aggressive and/or self-abusive.
- Maintaining staff and client safety while managing staffing ratios, many times, proves to be quite challenging.
- Often patients have multiple psychiatric diagnoses as well as other medical issues the MHI needs to address.
- The average length of stay at the MHI is 45 days.
- The MHI has 233 funded positions. With a current staff count of 221, the MHI is in various stages of hiring. It is a challenge for facilities to recruit and retain professionals.
- The use of restraints and seclusion has dropped dramatically since 1990. At the MHI, restraints have been reduced 97%, and seclusion is rarely used.

Budget Overview

Dr. Dave, presented an overview of the MHI budget.

- The total MHI budget for FY2016 is \$22.5M
- 85% of the budget is appropriated from the General Fund
- The Federal government reimburses the MHI for the PMIC program
- The Department of Education provides funding to operate the school
- The MHI leases some space on the campus – rental income is 2% of the budget
- 82% of the total budget is salaries and benefits, leaving 18% for support.
- The breakdown for human resource costs are: 42% direct care staff; 19% professional staff; and 2% medical staff, with support staff making up the remainder.
- The MHI occupies 70% of the campus, and renters occupy 8%, with the rest of the campus 6% unused (two buildings need to be demolished) and 16% currently vacant.

Tour Independence MHI Campus

Council toured the MHI facility.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Yoder to approve the minutes of September 9-10, 2014 and seconded by Richardson. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Parks and Institution Road Program

A motion was made by Yoder to approve the DHS Parks and Institution Road Program request as submitted and seconded by Spading. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Council Member's Update

Spading was congratulated for completing her MBA in August.

Anderson reported that he has asked DHS staff to look into why an appeal process may take up to two years in a Brain Injury Waiver case.

Adjournment

Council thanked Dr. Dave and MHI staff for the information shared and the hospitality shown to the Council.

The next meeting of the Council on Human Services will be November 12, 2014, in Des Moines.

Council adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sandy Knudsen
Recording Secretary

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